United Nations E/CN.6/2015/NGO/201

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-ninth session
9-20 March 2015
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-65951 (E) 160115

Please recycle

Statement

We believe, as stated on the Beijing Declaration and platform for action, the creation of an educational and social environment, in which women and men, girls and boys, are treated equally and encouraged to achieve their full potential, respecting their freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, and where educational resources promote non-stereotypical images of women and men, would be effective in the elimination of the causes of discrimination against women and inequalities between women and men.

We, too, are convinced that eradication of poverty based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice requires the involvement of women in economic and social development, equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of people-centered sustainable development.

Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa was established in August 1999. It focuses on youth development and aims to enable underprivileged youth to be independent through education, entrepreneurship, and economic assistance. In the fifteen years of its existence, Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa has impacted more than 2.4 million people and focused to reach ten million by 2020. In 2012, Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa began to pilot several international programs in five countries, namely Afghanistan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Uganda.

According to the Central Body Statistic of the Republic of Indonesia, the number of people living in poverty in Indonesia is around 10.5 million people (as in March 2014) — around 5 per cent out of the total population in the country.

In developing countries, such as Indonesia, where women make up 50 per cent of the total population (according to the World Bank), we also believe that the productive capacity of women should be increased through access of credit to raise their income.

We believe that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty. Here at Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa, we always seek to reach out to empower women to get out of the poverty cycle through education, healthy lifestyle, and economic empowerment.

We aim to deliver a holistic youth development package where education and access to economy converge to enable true independence in a sustainable way. Our economic empowerment program tackles the objectives that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are working on.

The way we operate is by giving conditional micro loans where education attainment is the condition to loans given. Since 2010, we have been helping more than 28,539 women entrepreneurs by giving microloans that in return impacted the lives of more than 190,000 people.

To develop the fullest potential of girls and women of all ages, ensure their full and equal participation in building a better world for all, our microloans project has been proven to be effective. To date, Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa cooperative has disbursed more than 120,000 loans thus increasing beneficiaries' income from the average of US$1.8 to US$3 per day following a two year intervention and

bringing thousands of school dropouts back into education. Meanwhile, the repayment rate of our microloans is at 99 per cent.

We also strive to help our learning center's graduates to find employment after graduation and providing seed capital for selected Vocational Training graduates to start small businesses. Around 70.3 per cent of our graduates are working and 154 have received seed capital for their businesses.

To improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education, we believe in providing good education for underprivileged girls and boys and school dropouts hand in hand with economic empowerment. Currently, we have 60 learning centres spanning across 15 Indonesian provinces with 49,656 program attendees. Our education program offers affordable schooling at IDR 10,000/month (+- US$1 / month) per student for all programs, aimed at low income families who mainly live in poor urban areas. Basic education is provided along with digital inclusion and English literacy classes with certification from an esteemed university. This way, underprivileged women and girls (especially in the age of 17 to 24) may be given opportunity to continue their study and gain job skills.

Women also have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The enjoyment of this right is vital to their well-being and their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life. We believe in focusing on addressing risky behaviour in girls and boys through healthy lifestyle promotion to take care of women and their physical and mental health. Our healthy Lifestyle Promotion program helps girls and women to make wise decisions. The program incorporates life skill training, life counselling, training of trainers, peer-to-peer outreach (ripple program), and mass campaign.

In cooperation with the government sector, we participate in the development of a comprehensive strategy for improving health so that girls and women of all ages living in poverty have better quality of life. Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa and the United States Department of State strive to increase the awareness of the dangers of drug abuse with the intention to reduce drug demand nationally in Indonesia.

In cooperation with private sectors, we participate in the development of a comprehensive strategy for improving health, education, and the economy so that girls and women of all ages living in poverty have full access to better living. An adoption of a poor urban areas where women and their families live by corporate partner(s) is being proposed to be worked on. This will enable us to improve the economy of the area and make it flourish, thus improving the welfare of the whole community and the surroundings.

Today's girl children are tomorrow's women. This generation of leaders must accept and promote a world in which every child is free from injustice, oppression and inequality and free to develop her own potential. The principle of holistic youth development program must therefore be integral to the process.

For more information about Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa, please visit our website: www.ycabfoundation.org.